

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 02015 081755Z

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ACTION INR-07

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R 081352Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0541

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 2015

DEPARTMENT PASS INR/OIL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, SF, WZ

SUBJECT: UNDERGROUND RAILROAD THROUEH SWAZILAND

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY, DAVID HOGAN (FORMER CHIEF OF SWAZI INTELLIGENCE BRANCH) AND EDGAR HILLARY (FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF) HAVE CONFIRMED EXISTENCE OF UNDERGROUND RAILROAD THROUGH SWAZILAND TO MOVE DASSIDENT SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS TO MOZAMBIQUE FOR TRAINING. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, MAIN INFILTRATION AREA IS AROUND MAHAMBA REGION IN SOUTHWESTERN SWAZILAND, WITH NHLANGANO SERVING AS A MEETING CENTER. (THIS CONTRADICTS RUMORED IMPORTANCE FOR THIS PRUPOSE OF LAVUMISA AREA IN SOUTHEASTERN SWAZILAND, WHICH IS MAJOR DAGHA COLLECTION POINT FOR SHIPMENT TO SOUTH AFRICA.) INTELLIGENCE BRANCH HAS CAPTURED AND TURNED BACK MANY OF THE ILLEGAL ENTRANTS IN MAHAMBA REGION.

2. HILLARY CONFIRMED THAT UNDERGROUND RAILROAD WAS REASON FOR PRESENCE IN SWAZILAND OF CLEOPAS NDLOVU AND JOSEPH NDULI, WHO WERE KIDNAPPED BY SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE (MBABANE 780 AND MBABANE 1022). NHLOVU AND NDULI HAD MADE NUMBER OF TRIPS INTO SOUTH AFRICA OVER
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PAGE 02 MBABAN 02015 081755Z

PREVIOUS YEARS, AS FAR AS DURBAN, TO COLLECT REFUGEES.

(HILLARY THINKS KIDNAP OPERATION WAS EXECUTED BY NATAL POLICE WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM PRETORIA, WHICH RESULTED IN BADLY BUNGLED AFFAIR. IN MORE RECENT INCIDENT, THREE WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICEMEN IN BLACKFACE WERE ARRESTED IN SWAZILAND, FINED, AND DEPORTED. APPEARS THAT SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE IN NATAL AND TRANSVAAL MAY NOT BE AS CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY PRETORIA AS GENERALLY THOUGHT OR, ALTERNATIVELY, THAT PRETORIA IS BACKING OFF FROM ITS "SOFT" POLICY WITH RESPECT TO CONDUCTING POLICE ACTIVITY INSIDE BORDERING STATES.)

3. COMMENT: FLOW OF DISSIDENTS THROUGH SWAZILAND PUTS GOS INTO DIFFICULT POSITION. TO CLAMP DOWN HARD ON REFUGEE TRAFFIC WOULD ALIENATE BLACK AFRICA IN GENERAL AND MOZAMBIQUE IN PARTICULAR. HOWEVER, TO OPENLY ALLOW SWAZILAND TO BE USED AS ESCAPE ROUTE FOR RADICALS GETTING TRAINING FOR USE ON RETURN HOME WOULD PREJUDICE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. GOS APPEARS TO HAVE SETTLED FOR COMPROMISE POLICY OF GENERALLY IGNORING ILLEGAL TRAFFIC, MAKING ONLY INFREQUENT LOW-KEY SHOW OF CONCERN. WACHOB

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